

March 10, 2022

To: Environment Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of (with Amendment) HB 5293; An Act Prohibiting the Use of Wild or Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts.

This bill would prohibit some of the worst abuses of animals in the entertainment industry. Traveling with exotic animals means that the animals either need to be "broken" or denied a natural existence in order for them to perform. Families are torn apart (mothers and babies) and the animals are kept in deplorable conditions without adequate veterinary care. There is no reason for this other than entertainment. Many states, including ones bordering Connecticut, have already banned exotic animals in traveling circuses. Two localities in CT have also restricted this (Stamford and Bridgeport). It should become a statewide law. Even Ringling Bros realized that this is no longer acceptable or wanted by the public.

Line 33, "includes any animal that is not domesticated," should be removed however, because it provides an end-run around the legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify IN OPPOSITION to SB 244; An Act Concerning Wildlife that Causes Damage to Livestock, Poultry or Bees.

This bill would allow for loopholes and circumventing of laws pertaining to hunting. Right now, farmers *do* have the ability to handle "problem" animals (i.e. bears) via the trapping statute CGS 26-72. SB 244 would not allow for better management of wild animals; rather it would allow for easier trophy hunting. Any wildlife hunts need regulation and SB 244 would undo most of that. If SB 244 passes, anyone can posit that an animal--bobcat, bear, whatnot--is a threat to their livestock and kill it with barely any oversight or accountability.

If there is a problem animal, education and humane alternatives are the best recourse. It's been proven time and again that deterrents, changing human behavioral patterns (i.e. not leaving garbage/food sources out), fencing, and other such measures work. Killing is not needed.

Thank you,  
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